

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Prices of newly introduced drugs

2175. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI N.K. PREM A. CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the newspaper reports that prices of most of the newly introduced drugs are exorbitantly high; and

(b) if so, the details of the newly introduced drugs during the last two years and their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Prices of bulk drugs listed in the First Schedule of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and their formulations are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Presently, 74 bulk drugs are listed in the Scheduled. In cases of all other drugs, including newly introduced drugs, the NPPA does not fix the price. New drugs are approved by other Drugs Controller General of India in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on the basis of safety efficacy data furnished by the applicant as per the 'Schedule Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

(b) During the priod from July, 1998 to June, 2000, 43 new drugs have been approved.

Import of formulations by multinational drug companies

2176. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of finished formulations being imported by multinational drug companies and the import of each during the last three years, quantity-wise and value-wise;

(b) the sources of import of each formulations;

(c) the sales turnover during the above period; and

(d) the names of drugs on which each is based?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) All the bulk drugs and medicines excepting a few, are under the Free List of Imports and can be imported without an import licence. Imports of formulations separately and company wise are not monitored.

Manufacture of life saving drugs by third party

2177. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any court case is pending against withdrawal of loan licensing system;

(b) if so, since when the case is continuing and what steps have been taken to pursue the case; and

(c) what is the exact policy decision of the Department, particularly in regard to manufacture of life saving drugs by third party manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Most of the cases filed against withdrawal of Loan—Licensing system have been disposed of, dismissed or withdrawn. Efforts were made to have a common hearing for all the petitions in the Supreme Court. However, the petition to this effect was dismissed, whereby hearings continued separately in different High Courts.

(c) The manufacture of Drugs, including life saving drugs by third party manufacturers, is governed by the relevant provisions in this regard in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Consumption of Potassic fertilizer

2178. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual consumption of potassic fertilizer in our country and the names of countries from which it is being imported, alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years; and